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Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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ACTION AID-00

ACTION OFFICE -ANSP-03

INFO ANSA-03 ANAF-04 PPDC-01 PPPE-02 AHPD-05 ES-01 SEOP-01
SERP-01 SECS-02 RELO-01 AMAD-01 KAY-01 /026 A0

INFO LOG-00 CIAE-00 EB-00 DODE-00 NEA-04 /004 W
-----054166 120421Z /61 63/38

P 120401Z JAN 89 ZEL
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3336
INFO AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 00335

C O R R E C T E D COPY REPLACING MRN 769

AIDAC FROM AID/REP

AID FOR ANE DP ALSO ANE/AF

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: N/A

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN - 306-0202 EDUCATION SECTOR
- SUPPORT AAM AMENDMENT

REF: (A) 88 STATE 416686; (B) 88 ISLAMABAD 25455;
- (C) 88 STATE 391839; (D) 88 STATE 414717

1. SUMMARY: MISSION WELCOMES AID/W'S RAPID AND POSITIVE RESPONSE ON SUBJECT AAM. WE ARE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT THE ISSUE OF DISAPPROVING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WAS NOT OFFICIALLY COMMUNICATED TO THE MISSION PRIOR TO THE ANPAC IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE GROUND RULES FOR THE ONE-STEP REVIEW PROCESS. WE BELIEVE THIS ISSUE NEEDS TO BE RESURFACED. MISSION WELCOMES JOINT PROJECT REVIEW WITH AID/W ONE YEAR FROM NOW. CONTINUATION OF EXISTING PROJECT COMPONENTS AND INITIATION OF ACTIONS FOR THE NEWER ELEMENTS (MINE AWARENESS AND MANPOWER TRAINING) HAVE COMMENCED.

2. MISSION APPRECIATES RAPID AND STREAMLINED AAM ACTION DETAILED REFS (A), (C) AND (D).

3. WE WELCOME SUGGESTIONS OF JOINT MISSION-AID/W REVIEW AND BELIEVE THIS SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN PAKISTAN (OR AFGHANISTAN, CONDITIONS PERMITTING) RATHER THAN WASHINGTON. WE REQUEST AID/W PLAN FOR AN APPROPRIATE BUREAU REPRESENTATIVE TO TDY HERE IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY 1990.

4. QUALITY OF EDUCATION AND DILUTION OF EFFORT:

A. WE HAVE SHARED REF (A) WITH CONTRACTOR. MISSION AND CONTRACTOR AGREE THAT WE HAVE NO FIRM HANDLE ON THE QUALITY ISSUE UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. (THIS WAS ALSO LARGELY TRUE OF RURAL PRIMARY EDUCATION IN PRE-VAR PERIOD). GIVEN THE BROAD DEMAND AND IMMENSE UNMET NEEDS FOR EDUCATION, WE FEEL IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO BE DRAWN INTO A QUALITY VS. QUANTITY DICHOTOMY ISSUE AT THIS POINT. WE AND THE AFGHANS RECOGNIZE THAT THE MOST COST EFFECTIVE METHODS OF IMPROVING QUALITY IN THE NEAR FUTURE ARE ADDITIONAL TRAINING OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS AND REFRESHER TRAINING FOR TEACHERS.

B. IN THE LONGER RUN, PROVISION FOR MOBILITY OF TEACHERS TO DISTRICT LEVEL POSITIONS, ADDITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL TO ALLOW

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ADMINISTRATORS TO FOCUS ON PLANNING/QUALITY ISSUES OVER CLERICAL TASKS AS WELL AS DEVELOPMENT OF SOME INDICATORS OF COMPETENCY FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS WILL BE NEEDED TO MEASURE AND ULTIMATELY IMPROVE QUALITY. THESE IMPROVEMENTS LIE LARGELY BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THE AMENDED PROJECT. OUR PRESENT TASK IS ONE OF BASE-BUILDING AND FIRST STEPS. THE SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE AND HIGH SCHOOL PILOT TEXT REVISION SHOULD BE SEEN IN THIS RESPECT. THE MANPOWER AND MONEY INVOLVED ARE MINIMAL, BUT THE STEPS MUST BE TAKEN TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR OTHER DONOR PARTICIPATION AND AFGHAN SUPPORT FROM LOCAL OR NATIONAL AUTHORITIES.

C. WE ARE DOING WHATEVER IS POSSIBLE TO ENCOURAGE OTHER DONOR PARTICIPATION. SERIOUS PARTICIPATION SEEMS UNLIKELY UNTIL A STABLE AND RECEPTIVE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TAKES POWER IN KABUL. WE URGE AID/W EDUCATION COLLEAGUES TO ACTIVELY SOW WHATEVER SEEDS OF INTEREST THEY CAN IN THE COURSE OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL CONTACTS. FYI. NO UN ENTITY IS KNOWN TO BE DOING EDUCATION PLANNING EVEN THOUGH UNESCO HAS APPARENTLY PROMISED TO PLACE AN OFFICER IN THE COORDINATOR'S OFFICE HERE. END FYI.

D. MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT AND MINE AWARENESS:

SINCE RECEIPT OF REF (A), DRAFT PIO/T, SOW, INVITATION FOR APPLICATIONS AND NEWSPAPER ADS FOR UETTA AND PESHAWAR HAVE BEEN FINALIZED. MINE AWARENESS IS ALSO BEING ACTIVATED IN CONCERT WITH THEIR ACTIVITIES IN THE MISSION AND UN.

E. CURRENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

FOR UPCOMING THIRD CYCLE, WE ARE RAISING RECRUITMENT STANDARDS AND ACTIVELY EXPLORING MEANS TO IMPROVE ENGLISH CAPABILITIES BEFORE STUDENTS DEPART FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, OMAHA (UNO). THIS SHOULD PERMIT GREATER CONCENTRATION ON MANAGEMENT AND SUBSTANTIVE STUDIES INSTEAD OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE WHEN PARTICIPANTS ARRIVE AT UNO. WE FEEL THESE ACTIONS WILL LAY GROUND WORK FOR ANY FUTURE DEGREE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

F. FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

G. MISSION UNDERSTOOD REF (B) THAT MAJOR ISSUES ARISED AT ANPAC WOULD BE SURFACED WITH MISSION BEFORE FORWARDING AUTHORIZATION AMENDMENT TO AA/ANE FOR SIGNATURE. WE CONSIDER THE DISAPPROVAL OF THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO BE A MAJOR ISSUE FOR REASONS STATED IN THE AAM AND THE TRANSMITTAL LETTER. WE HEREOFRE ARE TAKING THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR A RECLAM. THE FUTURE COURSE OF A.I.D. ASSISTANCE IN EDUCATION OF AN INDEPENDENT AFGHANISTAN WILL MOST LIKELY BE AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL AS NOTED IN THE AAM TRANSMITTAL LETTER:

QUOTE: ONE IMPORTANT AREA IS ACKNOWLEDGED BUT NOT TREATED BY THE AMENDED PROJECT. THIS IS THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF KABUL UNIVERSITY. PRIOR TO 1978, THE U.S. HAD TAKEN A LEAD ROLE, THROUGH VARIOUS A.I.D.-FUNDED UNIVERSITY PROJECTS, IN DEVELOPING THE ENGINEERING, AGRICULTURAL AND TEACHER TRAINING FACILITIES AND IN STREAMLINING THE ADMINISTRATION. WE FEEL THE ACTIVITIES HAD EXCELLENT PAYOFFS, AS EVIDENCED BY THE SPEED WITH WHICH THE MARXISTS VIRTUALLY DESTROYED THE UNIVERSITY, AND THE HIGH LEVEL POSITIONS IN THE RESISTANCE MANY FORMER FACULTY

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MEMBERS AND STUDENTS HOLD. THESE SAME PEOPLE WILL PLAY KEY ROLES IN ANY FUTURE GOVERNMENT. OUR KABUL UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES ARE WHAT WE DID WELL IN PRE-WAR AFGHANISTAN, WHAT WE ARE FONDLY REMEMBERED FOR, WHAT WE WILL BE ASKED TO DO AGAIN, AND WHERE OUR FUTURE COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE IN EDUCATION LIES. OUR KABUL UNIVERSITY FUTURE ROLE AND HOW WE GET TO IT, GIVEN OUR PRESENT EMPHASIS ON PRIMARY EDUCATION, IS AN ISSUE WHICH WILL NOT GO AWAY, BUT ONE WHICH WE CANNOT TREAT UNDER THE CURRENT TRANSITION STRATEGY. WE MAY BE COMPELLED TO REVISIT THIS ISSUE AGAIN IN THE NEXT YEAR OR SOONER. UNQUOTE.

B. WHILE GRANTING THE VALIDITY OF THE POINTS MADE REF (A), MISSION SEES THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AS A NECESSARY FIRST STEP IN RE-ESTABLISHING KABUL UNIVERSITY AND AN IMPORTANT MODERATING ROLE THE USG CAN TAKE IN AN INDEPENDENT AFGHANISTAN. THIS IS ESPECIALLY SO GIVEN THE EXTENSIVE SOVIET-FUNDED INDOCTRINATION AND TRAINING OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN AND HIGHER LEVEL STUDENTS NUMBERING IN THE TENS OF THOUSANDS.

C. WE SEE THE PROPOSED LETTER TO U.S. COLLEGES BY UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-OMAHA CHANCELLOR DEL WEBER AS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN ELICITING INTEREST IN AND LEVERAGING RESOURCES FOR THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF MODERN AND NON-DOGMATIC HIGHER EDUCATION IN AFGHANISTAN. HIS LETTER WILL BE THAT MUCH WEAKER IN THIS REGARD ABSENT ANY INDICATION OF A.I.D. SUPPORT TO SCHOLARSHIP/ROOM/BOARD ASSISTANCE OFFERED BY THE COLLEGES (E.G., AIR TICKETS, PRE-DEPARTURE LANGUAGE TRAINING, TESTING AND POSSIBLY STIPENDS). TO NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS UNO INITIATIVE IS, FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE, EXTREMELY SHORT-SIGHTED AND PREVENTS US FROM LEVERAGING A SMALL U.S. INVESTMENT IN RETURN FOR THE PROVISION OF TRAINING WIDELY RECOGNIZED AS A CRITICAL NEED FOR THE REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF AFGHANISTAN. WE THEREFORE REQUEST THAT AID/W RECONSIDER ITS DISAPPROVAL OF THIS COMPONENT OF THE AMENDED AAM.

D. WITH REGARD TO REF (A'S) QUOTE REVERSE ACCORDION OF THIS PROJECT END QUOTE, WE APPRECIATE THE RECURRENT COST/FUTURE FUNDING CONCERNS AND, THUS, HAVE CAPPED TOTAL SALARY EXPENDITURES FOR THE NEW LOP. THE TOTAL FUNDING COULD, IN THE FUTURE, COVER ONLY SOME OF THE TRAINED TEACHERS OR COULD BE SPREAD MORE WIDELY AT LOWER UNIT COST AS OTHER DONORS OR AFGHAN ENTITIES PICK UP THE SLACK. FOR THE PRESENT HOWEVER, THERE ARE NO OTHER SUBSTANTIAL DONORS, (SAVE THE marginally INVOLVED SWEDISH COMMITTEE) AND NO INDEPENDENT AFGHAN ENTITY. THUS, THE LOP AGGREGATE CAP MUST SUFFICE. THE CONTRACTOR IS AWARE OF THE ISSUE AND WILL MONITOR IT. WE SUGGEST THIS ISSUE BE TAKEN UP AS PART OF NEXT YEAR'S AID/W-MISSION REVIEW.

E. LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR RESPONSE TO THIS RECLAMA.
JONES

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